

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 00266 101717Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 IO-13 /087 W
-----107120 101809Z /43

P 101635Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7606
INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE POUCH
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0266

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO
SUBJECT: MOBUTU MAKES MODERATE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON ZAIRIAN/ANGOLAN
RELATIONS

REF: A) KINSHASA 0142 (NOTAL; B) KINSHASA 12161 (NOTAL)

2. SUMMARY: DURING PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S JANUARY 6 SPEECH
TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, HE REPEATED EARLIER OFFERS
(REF A) TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA. HE ALSO OFFERED
TO ACCEPT, ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS, THE PRESENCE OF NEUTRAL
OBSERVERS TO ENSURE THAT NEITHER COUNTRY IS USED AS AN
OPERATIONAL BASE OR CENTER OF SUBERSION AGAINST THE OTHER.
END SUMMARY.

2. AT A JANUARY 6 GOZ RECEPTION WHERE PRESIDENT MOBUTU
EXCHANGED NEW YEARS GREETINGS WITH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
MOBUTU INCLUDED IN HIS MESSAGE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 00266 101717Z

ON ZAIRIAN-ANGOLAN RELATIONS:

BEGIN TEXT: WHEN IT HAPPENS THAT RELATIONS WITH
A PARTICULAR COUNTRY ARE UNDER A FEW CLOUDS OR LACK
CLARITY, WE SPARE NO EFFORT TO ACHIEVE NORMALIZATION.
I WILL MENTION AS AN EXAMPLE, ONLY THE CASE OF ANGOLA.
FAITHFUL TO THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHENTICITY BY WHICH WE

ACCEPT EACH (COUNTRY) AS IT IS, WE DECIDED EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA REGIME AND TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LUANDA. EVEN THOUGH THIS GESTURE HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN A VERY LUKEWARM MANNER, OUR DECISION STANDS; FOR IT IS SINCERE AND THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED.

THUS IN THE COURSE OF 1977 WE INVITED OUR ANGOLAN BROTHERS TO ATTEND OUR INAUGURATION CEREMONIES. SIMILARLY WE SENT A MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONGRESS OF THE MPLA. IN RETURN PRESIDENT NETO SENT US A MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

THOSE ARE CERTAINLY GOOD SIGNS, THE POSITIVE VALUE OF WHICH WILL ONLY BECOME CLEAR IN THE LIGHT OF LATER DEVELOPMENTS - FOR IT IS OBVIOUSLY IMPORTANT THAT EACH PARTY BE FULLY CONVINCED OF THE GOOD FAITH OF THE OTHER IN ORDER TO WORK TOWARD PEACE AND TRUE NORMALIZATION.

SO FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, NOBODY CAN DOUBT OUR GOOD WILL. OUR COUNTRY WILL NEVER SERVE AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS OR A HOTBED OF SUBVERSIVE ACTION AGAINST AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY IN AFRICA. THEREFORE, WE ARE READY, AT ANY TIME, TO ACCEPT ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS THE PRESENCE OF NEUTRAL OBSERVERS IN OUR COUNTRY WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO VERIFY THE TRUTH OF OUR STATEMENTS. ZAIRE, WHICH ASPIRES ONLY TO LIVE IN PEACE, CANNOT BUT REJECT WITH CONTEMPT ALLEGATIONS THAT WE WOULD ENCOURAGE ON OUR TERRITORY MOVEMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 00266 101717Z

OTHER REGIMES OR PLANS TO IMPERIL OTHER INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES. THOSE WHO GIVE RISE TO SUCH RUMORS ARE DISHONEST OR AWKWARDLY CONCEAL THEIR PERNICIOUS INTENTIONS. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS COMING FROM BOTH KINSHASA AND LUANDA BEARING ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED BY DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS HERE THAT MORE IS TAKING PLACE BEHIND THE SCENES. FOCUS OF SPECULATION IS ON POSSIBLE INTERMEDIARY ROLE BY KAUNDA. AS REPORTED REF B, MOBUTU MET WITH KAUNDA DECEMBER 20 IN ZAMBIA AND, ACCORDING TO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS, ZAIRE'S PROBLEMS WITH ANGOLA WERE AMONG MATTERS DISCUSSED. DUTCH AMBASSADOR CLAIMS TO HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY MEETING BETWEEN ZAIRIANS AND ANGOLANS AT "LOWER POLITICAL LEVEL" IN ZAMBIA TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR. FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA'S SUDDEN DEPARTURE JANUARY 9 FOR LUSAKA HAS ADDED MORE FUEL TO CURRENT SPECULATION. MEANWHILE, OTHER OBSERVERS VIEW RECENT CONTACTS BETWEEN MOBUTU AND PRESIDENT YHOMBI-OPANGO (E.G. AT MOBUTU'S DECEMBER 5 INAUGURATION) AS RAISING POSSIBILITY OF REACTIVATION OF CONGOLESE ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY. WHILE WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION THAT EITHER ANGOLAN OR ZAIRIAN HAS IN FACT GONE BEYOND MERE

PUBLIC STATEMENTS, EVEN THIS MINIMUM, LONG-DISTANCE DIALOGUE
CONSTITUTES A WELCOME AND PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FROM COMPLETE
FREEZE THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED THEIR RELATIONS SINCE THE SHABA
WAR. THE EXTENT TO WHICH WARMER RHETORIC REFLECTS PROSPECTS FOR
A GENUINE THAW OF COURSE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINSHA00266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-1201
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780181/aaaacqpw.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c7afeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINSHASA 142, 77 KINSHASA 12161
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3802357
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBUTU MAKES MODERATE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON ZAIRIAN/ANGOLAN RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7afeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014